

REMARKS

The Office Action of March 19, 2003 has been reviewed and this is a response to that action.

Claims 1, 2 and 5 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keough '667 in view of Rosenbaum et al.

The rejection states that the Keough '667 system generates sort sequence codes for all of the mail pieces (holdouts and regular mails). However, this is not correct since the term "holdouts" appears nowhere in his patent nor does a term equivalent to the term "holdouts" used. This patent therefore does not address how to deal with holdouts. However, all of the rejected claims contain the recitation of "generating sequence codes for holdouts and regular mail types and placing them into a sort plan binary file."

Claim 2 indicates that the dealing with holdouts is in the initial sorting pass of a multiple pass sequential mail sort while Keough '667 is a one-pass system.

Claim 3 has been amended to appear in independent form.

As for claim 5, it is allowable for the same reasons stated above in support of claim 1. In addition, it provides for "hashing" to sort plan binary file to speed up the process.

Claims 8 and 9 present the subject matter of claims 4 and 7, respectively but depend directly from claim 1.

Therefore, all of the claims define patentably over the cited prior art, and the rejections should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

A request for an extension of time for one month is attached to this response, so that the filing of this response is timely, July 19, 2003 having been a Saturday.

If this response does not place the application into condition for allowance, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned to expedite the further prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,


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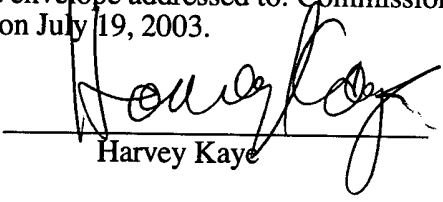
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Date: July 21, 2003

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in a postage prepaid envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 19, 2003.


Harvey Kaye